

2025-04-16 Meditation for Wednesday in the Sixth Week of Lent is now available at: <https://pgimf.org/meditations/>

[The opening theme song with a poetic paraphrase begins:]

*Ich bete an die Macht der Liebe,*  
O Pow'r of love, all else transcending,  
*Die sich in Jesu offenbart;*  
In Jesus present evermore,  
*Ich geb' mich hin dem freien Triebe,*  
I worship thee, in homage bending,

### ***Foundling Hospital Anthem, HWV 268, Nos 5, 6, and 7*** (May 27, 1749; rev. 1753)

Lyrics: Biblical texts adapted from the King James Version

Music: George Frederick Handel (1685-1758)

Artists: The English Concert, Harry Bicket (dir. and harpsichord)

This group hopes to film performances of all of Handel's music for the public.

Miah Persson and Elena Villalón, sopranos

Ann Hallenberg, mezzo-soprano

James Way, tenor

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gHOWrbXQbJE> (entire anthem)

For a fascinating video on Handel, abandoned babies, the Foundling Hospital, and *Messiah*, see:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i3RRsi6cOPM>

### **No. 5: Comfort them, O Lord, when they are sick**

[Chorus; text is similar to Psalm 41:3, altered]

[Two moods: 'sickness' texts are sung slowly and 'living' texts are lively.]

Comfort them, O Lord, when they are sick:  
make thou their bed in sickness.

[Lively—but also occasionally alternating with the 'comfort in sickness' motif.]

Keep them alive, let them be blessed upon the earth  
and not deliver them unto their foes.

### **No. 6: The People will Tell of Their Wisdom**

[Duet for two sopranos]

The people will tell of their wisdom  
And the congregation will shew forth their praise  
[Ecclesiasticus 44:15]

[Instrumental interlude introducing music which recalls joyful courtly dance steps.]

Their reward is with the Lord  
and the care of them is with the Most High.

[Wisdom 5:15b]

**No. 7: Hallelujah!** [Copied directly from *Messiah*, 1741]

[Chorus; Revelation 19:6, 16; 11:15]

Hallelujah!

[Imitative]

For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

[Slower, chordal, contrasting “this world” and “the kingdom of our Lord”]

The Kingdom of this world is become  
the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ,

[Imitative: Basses, Tenors, Altos, Sopranos]

and He shall reign forever and ever.

[Initially repeated three times, each statement higher than the last]

King of kings and Lord of lords.

Hallelujah!

[Closing words to our theme song:]

*O! dass diess jeder Sünder wüsste,*

O! that every sinner would know this,

*Sein Herz wohl bald dich lieben müsste.*

His heart must soon surely love You.

Evan

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